
















Appendix A: Vehicle Classification Using FHWA 13-Category Scheme

FHWA Vehicle Classifications				
1. Motorcycles 2 axles, 2 or 3 tires 	2. Passenger Cars 2 axles, can have 1- or 2-axle trailers 	3. Pickups, Panels, Vans 2 axles, 4-tire single units Can have 1 or 2 axle trailers 	4. Buses 2 or 3 axles, full length 	
5. Single Unit 2-Axle Trucks 2 axles, 6 tires (dual rear tires), single-unit 	6. Single Unit 3-Axle Trucks 3 axles, single unit 	7. Single Unit 4 or More-Axle Trucks 4 or more axles, single unit 	8. Single Trailer 3- or 4-Axle Trucks 3 or 4 axles, single trailer 	
9. Single Trailer 5-Axle Trucks 5 axles, single trailer 	10. Single Trailer 6 or More-Axle Trucks 6 or more axles, single trailer 			
11. Multi-Trailer 5 or Less-Axle Trucks 5 or less axles, multiple trailers 	12. Multi-Trailer 6-Axle Trucks 6 axles, multiple trailers 			
13. Multi-Trailer 7 or More-Axle Trucks 7 or more axles, multiple trailers 				

A. FHWA Vehicle Classes With Definitions

Class 1 - Motorcycles (Optional). All two- or three-wheeled motorized vehicles. Typical vehicles in this category have saddle type seats and are steered by handlebars rather than steering wheels. This category includes motorcycles, motor scooters, mopeds, motor-powered bicycles, and three-wheel motorcycles. This vehicle type may be reported at the option of the State.

Class 2 - Passenger Cars. All sedans, coupes, and station wagons manufactured primarily for the purpose of carrying passengers and including those passenger cars pulling recreational or other light trailers.

Class 3 - Other Two-Axle, Four-Tire Single Unit Vehicles. All two-axle, four-tire vehicles, other than passenger cars. Included in this classification are pickups, panels, vans, and other vehicles such as campers, motor homes, ambulances, hearses, carryalls, and minibuses. Other two-axle, four-tire single-unit vehicles pulling recreational or other light trailers are included in this classification. Because automatic vehicle classifiers have difficulty distinguishing Class 3 from Class 2, these two classes may be combined into Class 2.

Class 4 - Buses. All vehicles manufactured as traditional passenger-carrying buses with two axles and six tires or three or more axles. This category includes only traditional buses (including school buses) functioning as passenger-carrying vehicles. Modified buses should be considered to be a truck and should be appropriately classified.

Class 5 - Two-Axle, Six-Tire, Single-Unit Trucks. All vehicles on a single frame, including trucks, camping and recreational vehicles, motor homes, etc., with two axles and dual rear wheels.

Class 6 - Three-Axle Single-Unit Trucks. All vehicles on a single frame, including trucks, camping and recreational vehicles, motor homes, etc., with three axles.

Class 7 - Four or More Axle Single-Unit Trucks. All trucks on a single frame with four or more axles.

Class 8 - Four or Fewer Axle Single-Trailer Trucks. All vehicles with four or fewer axles consisting of two units, one of which is a tractor or straight truck power unit.

Class 9 - Five-Axle Single-Trailer Trucks. All five-axle vehicles consisting of two units, one of which is a tractor or straight truck power unit.

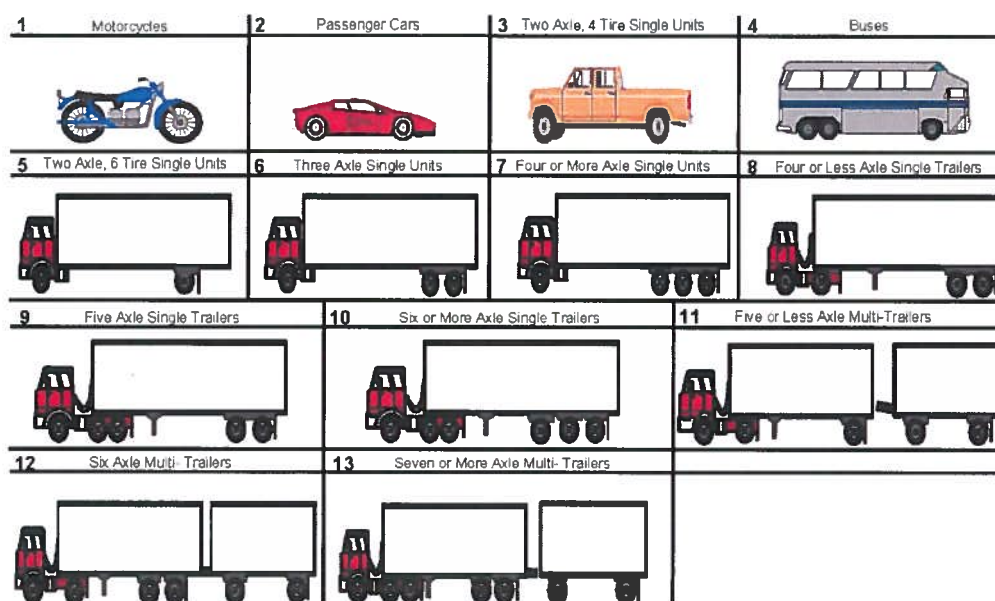
Class 10 – Six or More Axle Single-Trailer Trucks. All vehicles with six or more axles consisting of two units, one of which is a tractor or straight truck power unit.

Class 11 – Five or fewer Axle Multi-Trailer Trucks. All vehicles with five or fewer axles consisting of three or more units, one of which is a tractor or straight truck power unit.

Class 12 – Six-Axle Multi-Trailer Trucks. All six-axle vehicles consisting of three or more units, one of which is a tractor or straight truck power unit.

Class 13 – Seven or More Axle Multi-trailer Trucks. All vehicles with seven or more axles consisting of three or more units, one of which is a tractor or straight truck power unit.

Figure A.1 FHWA Vehicle Classifications



Source: 2006 NYSDOT Traffic Data Report.